



U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/822,443  
Attorney Docket No.: 67602.000003

APPENDIX A

1 (Currently Amended). A conversion assembly for enabling or improving ~~wheelchair~~ accessibility to a ~~front wheel drive~~ vehicle, wherein said assembly comprises rear suspension mountings for fixing to the structure of the vehicle in place of an existing rear suspension such that a portion of a floorpan of the vehicle ~~of sufficient width to accommodate the width of a~~ ~~wheelchair~~ can be lowered between said rear suspension mountings.

2 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the conversion assembly is such that the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly from a rear entrance of the vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a driver's position to enable the occupant of the wheelchair to drive the vehicle from the wheelchair.

3 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the conversion assembly is such that the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly from a rear entrance of the vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a front row passenger position

of the vehicle where the wheelchair is restrained during driving of the vehicle to enable the occupant of the wheelchair to occupy the wheelchair in the front row passenger position during driving of the vehicle.

4 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pair of rear suspension mountings comprises a pair of independent rear suspension mountings.

5 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein each of the rear suspension mountings includes:

an independent rear trailing arm suspension component comprising an elongated arm having a pivotal coupling at a front end thereof for enabling the elongated arm to pivot with respect to the structure of the vehicle about an axis substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated arm;

a wheel mounting for mounting a wheel of the vehicle longitudinally spaced from the axis of rotation of the elongated arm;

a spring mounting for mounting a spring between the elongated arm and the structure of the vehicle; and

a shock absorber mounting for mounting a shock absorber between the elongated arm and the structure of the vehicle.

6 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pivotal coupling comprises a bearing arrangement at the front end of the elongated arm.

7 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the shock absorber mounting comprises a shock absorber mounting bracket at a rear end of the elongated arm.

8 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the spring comprises at least one of a coil spring and an air spring, and wherein the spring mounting comprises a seating in an upper surface of the elongated arm for receiving a lower end of the at least of a coil spring and air spring.

9 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the wheel mounting comprises a wheel mounting bracket mounted to an outer side of the elongated arm.

10 (Currently Amended). The A conversion assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a chassis frame for attaching to an existing chassis of the vehicle, the chassis frame being adapted for mounting said rear suspension mountings thereon.

11 (Currently Amended). A ~~front wheel drive~~ vehicle having an existing rear suspension and converted for enabling or improving ~~wheelchair~~ accessibility to the vehicle with a conversion assembly comprising rear suspension mountings for fixing to the structure of the vehicle in place of the existing rear suspension such that a portion of a floorpan of the vehicle of ~~sufficient width to accommodate the width of a wheelchair~~ can be lowered between said rear suspension mountings.

12 (Currently Amended). The ~~A~~ ~~front wheel drive~~ vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the conversion assembly is such that the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly from a rear entrance of the vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a driver's position to enable the occupant of the wheelchair to drive the vehicle from the wheelchair.

13 (Currently Amended). The ~~A~~ ~~front wheel drive~~ vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle has wheelchair accessibility to the rear of the vehicle through a doorway at the rear of the vehicle.

14 (Currently Amended). The ~~A~~ ~~front wheel drive~~ vehicle as

claimed in claim 11, wherein the existing rear suspension comprises a rear beam axle.

15 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 760mm wide.

16 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 15, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 840mm wide.

17 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is 850mm wide.

18 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan is substantially flat.

19 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle is provided with a restraining belt, the restraining belt being anchored to the vehicle at either side of a space in which the a wheelchair is to be located during driving of the vehicle, for restraining the

occupant of the wheelchair.

20 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 19, wherein the belt is anchored to the vehicle on one side of the space in which the wheelchair is to be located during driving of the vehicle, by way of a belt mounting frame fixed to the structure of the vehicle.

21 (Currently Amended). The A front wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vehicle is provided with locking restraints for locking ~~the a~~ wheelchair in place during driving of the vehicle.

22 (Currently Amended). A method of converting a ~~front wheel~~ drive vehicle to enable or improve ~~wheelchair~~ accessibility to the vehicle, the method including the steps of:

removing an existing rear suspension from the vehicle;  
installing rear suspension mountings to the vehicle, one at each side of the structure of the vehicle; and  
lowering a portion of the floorpan of the vehicle between said rear suspension mountings.

23 (Currently Amended). The A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly

from a rear entrance of the vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a driver's position where the wheelchair is restrained during driving of the vehicle to enable ~~the~~ an occupant of the wheelchair to drive the vehicle from the wheelchair.

24 (Currently Amended). The A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the lowered portion of the floorpan extends forwardly from a rear entrance of the vehicle such that a wheelchair is able to be driven from the rear entrance to a front row passenger position of the vehicle where the wheelchair is restrained during driving of the vehicle to enable ~~the~~ an occupant of the wheelchair to occupy the wheelchair in the front row passenger position during driving of the vehicle.

25 (Currently Amended). The A method of ~~converting a front-wheel-drive vehicle~~ as claimed in claim 22, wherein installing rear suspension mountings to the vehicle, one at each side of the structure of the vehicle comprises installing independent rear suspension mountings.

26 (Currently Amended). The A method of ~~converting a front-wheel-drive vehicle~~ as claimed in claim 25, wherein the method further includes the step of attaching an additional chassis

frame to an existing chassis of the vehicle, the additional chassis frame being adapted for mounting said pair of independent rear suspension mountings thereon.

27 (Currently Amended). The A method of converting a front-wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of lowering the portion of the floorpan of the vehicle includes lowering the portion of the floorpan such that the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 760mm wide.

28 (Currently Amended). The A method of converting a front-wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 27, wherein the step of lowering the portion of the floorpan of the vehicle includes lowering the portion of the floorpan such that the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 840mm wide.

29 (Currently Amended). The A method of converting a front-wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of lowering the portion of the floorpan of the vehicle includes lowering the portion of the floorpan such that the lowered portion of the floorpan is at least 850mm wide.

30 (Currently Amended). The A method of converting a front-wheel drive vehicle as claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of

lowering the portion of the floorpan of the vehicle includes lowering the portion of the floorpan such that the lowered portion of the floorpan is substantially flat.

31 (Currently Amended). ~~The A method of converting a front-wheel-drive vehicle as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method further includes the step of installing a restraining belt and anchoring the restraining belt to the vehicle at either side of a space in which the a wheelchair is to be located during driving of the vehicle, for restraining the an occupant of the wheelchair.~~

32 (Currently Amended). ~~The A method of converting a front-wheel-drive vehicle as claimed in claim 31, wherein the method further includes the step of fixing a belt mounting frame to the structure of the vehicle on one side of said space, the belt mounting frame being for mounting the restraining belt.~~

33 (Currently Amended). An independent rear trailing arm suspension component for a ~~front-wheel-drive~~ vehicle requiring wheelchair access comprising:

an elongated arm having a pivotal coupling at a front end thereof for enabling the elongated arm to pivot with respect to a structure of the vehicle about an axis substantially

transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated arm;

a wheel mounting for mounting a wheel of the vehicle longitudinally spaced from the axis of rotation of the elongated arm;

a spring mounting for mounting a spring between the elongated arm and the structure of the vehicle; and

a shock absorber mounting for mounting a shock absorber between the elongated arm and the structure of the vehicle.